

based on a disclosure which is not enabling.

Reconsideration is requested.

The specification points out that the invention comprises a peeling member for peeling paper from the rollers of an electrophotographic apparatus. The peeling member comprises a support member, and a peeling sheet that is flatly adhered to the support member with YAG laser spot welding. A preferred embodiment has a fluororesin adhered to the peeling member with a silicone based adhesive. This is what the applicant believes is the invention. The invention is described at pages 5 and 6 of the specification and preferred embodiments are set forth in the Examples. The Examiner should not rely on the preferred embodiments as a basis for rejecting a generic claim that points out the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention.

For these reasons, it is requested that this ground of rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1-7 and 9 have been canceled and are no longer at issue.

Claim 8, as amended, points out that the peeling member is adhered to the support member with a YAG laser.

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, claims 11-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention.

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-7 have been canceled and claim 11 has been amended to avoid the present ground of rejection. Claim 11 now points out that the peeling sheet comprises a metal plate, having a fluororesin film adhered with a silicone based adhesive to a portion of said metal plate where the metal plate at least contacts or is adjacent to said roller. Claim 12 has been amended to delete the term "essentially" and claim 16 has been amended to rewrite

"silicon" as -silicone--. In view of the amendments to claims, it is requested that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

In paragraph 8 of the Office Action, claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admissions regarding the prior art as set forth in JP59-188681; JP 11-184300, the present specification at pages 2-4 in view of either Lin et al. or Kobori.

Reconsideration is requested.

The present invention, as defined by the amended claims, is directed to a peeling member where the support member and the peeling sheet are adhered with YAG laser spot welding. This is explicitly illustrated by Examples 1 and 2 as well as by Comparative Example 1 in the present specification.

It is very important for a peeling sheet to maintain contact with or adjacent to the roller, in other words, the peeling sheet of the peeling member does not exhibit any type of a surface wave at the contact portion to the roller.

The applicant has not admitted that the prior art discloses the use of a YAG laser spot welding technique for adhering the support member to the peeling sheet.

In addition, the cited references do not disclose the use of a YAG laser for spot welding a support member to a peeling sheet. The attached sheet reports test results obtained by laser spot welding. The peeling sheet welded by YAG laser spot welding showed excellent horizontal straightness and a lack of any surface wave.

The cited references do not disclose a PTFE film having a thickness of 10 μ m to 200 μ m of a peeling sheet as claimed Claims 13-19. The peeling sheet is adhered to the peeling member without wrinkles, whereby the peeling member does not exhibit any wave at the portion that contacts the roller.

The Kibori patent discloses a silicone self-adhesive applicable to various supports other than a peeling member without use of any surface treatment. There is no suggestion to any material such as the ammoniacal solution of sodium metal which is pointed out in claims 15 and 19. When the polytetrafluoroethylene film is applied as claimed Claims 18 and 19, a surface treatment of the polytetrafluorethylene is required to overcome the chemical inertness of the surface of this material.

The collective teachings of the prior art fail to suggest the present invention as defined by the amended claims. For these reasons, it is requested that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

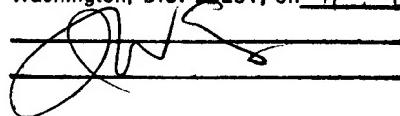


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Marked Up Copy of Amended Claims:

8. (Amended) A peeling member arranged in contact with or adjacent to a roller attached to an electrophotographic apparatus, comprising: a support member, and a peeling sheet adhered to [the] said support member with YAG laser spot welding.

11. (Amended) The peeling member as claimed in claim 8, wherein the peeling sheet comprises a metal plate, [and] having a fluororesin film adhered with a silicone based adhesive to a portion of said metal plate where the metal plate [is] at least contacts[ed with] or is adjacent to [the] said roller [with a silicone based adhesive].

12. (Amended) The peeling member as claimed in claim 11, wherein the fluororesin film is at least one resin film selected from the group consisting [essentially] of polytetrafluoroethylene polymer, tetrafluoroethylene-perfluoroalkylvinylether copolymer, tetrafluoroethylene-hexafluoropropylene copolymer, and tetrafluoroethylene-ethylene copolymer.

16. (Amended) The peeling member as claimed in claim 11, wherein the silicone based adhesive comprises dimethylpolysiloxane crude rubber.